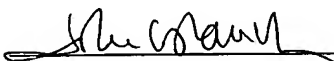


## REMARKS

By this preliminary amendment, the specification is amended to make reference to the Computer Listing Appendix included with the application, and to provide the identifying information required by 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.52, 1.77 and 1.96.

With this Preliminary Amendment, the application is believed to be in condition for early action on the merits. Should the examiner deem a telephone conference to be of assistance in advancing the application to allowance, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



John G. Rauch  
Registration No. 37,218  
Attorney for Applicant

January 20, 2004  
BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE  
P.O. BOX 10395  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610  
(312) 321-4200